

FACT SHEET | Raising the Minimum Wage to \$9.50

Working for a Better Minnesota

Governor Dayton strongly supports raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour. The Governor believes people who are working full-time should be able to support their families, gain access to additional training, and earn the promise of the American Dream. The current minimum wage of \$6.15 makes Minnesota one of only four states with a minimum wage lower than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. It is time to raise the minimum wage, and make work pay in Minnesota.

Raising the Minimum Wage, Making Work Pay

- **Raising the Wage for 350,000 Minnesotans.** Minimum wage workers have not seen a raise in nearly a decade. By increasing the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour, hundreds of thousands of Minnesota workers would see an increase in their pay for the first time since 2005.
- **\$472 Million in New Wages.** Raising the minimum wage would put hundreds of millions of dollars in the pockets of minimum wage workers. Economists say an increase in the minimum wage is likely to be spent on basic necessities, goods, and services. An increase in consumer spending would help local businesses and boost Minnesota's growing economy.
- **Rewarding Work, Promoting Financial Independence.** Increasing the minimum wage would raise the incomes of hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans. The Department of Human Services estimates that thousands of families enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program earn less than \$9.50 an hour. Increasing the minimum wage would help these low-income families achieve greater financial independence.
- **Competing with Neighboring States.** Minnesota's current minimum wage is lower than Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Right now, only Minnesota, Arkansas, Georgia, and Wyoming have minimum wages lower than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25.
- **Lifting People Out of Poverty.** Right now in Minnesota, a single parent with two children working full-time for the minimum wage earns an annual salary of \$12,792. That is nearly \$7,000 below the poverty line. Raising the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour would put another \$6,970 in that parent's pocket – helping them earn more to provide for their children.

Raising the Minimum Wage – By the Numbers

\$9.50	Governor Dayton strongly supports raising the minimum wage to \$9.50
350,000	Minnesotans who would receive a pay increase with a \$9.50 minimum wage
\$472 Million	Increase in wages earned by Minnesotans with a \$9.50 minimum wage
\$12,792	Annual income from working full-time at \$6.15 per hour